GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
LICENCE TO TELEVISION CHANNELS
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new TV channels to which licences have been provided during each of the last three years till date, channel-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending for approval of the Government during the above period, channel-wise;

(c) whether all the TV channels, granted licences during the above said period have started functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof, channel-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons thereof, channel-wise; and

(f) the time by when these licences are likely to be granted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.DASMUNSI)

(a) : 25 private satellite TV channels were permitted to be uplinked from India during the year 2005, 37 channels were permitted during the year 2006 and 63 channels have been permitted during the current year up to 26.11.2007. The lists of these channels are placed at Annexure-I.

(b) : As on 26.11.2007, applications of 86 channels for permission for uplinking from India are at various stages of scrutiny in accordance with the existing uplinking guidelines. The list of such channels is at Annexure-II.

(c) to (e): As per provision under the existing uplinking guidelines, the applicant company permitted to uplink shall operationalise the channel within a period of one year from the date the permission is granted by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting failing which the permission is liable to be withdrawn, after affording an opportunity of being heard. As many as 4 channels namely Satya TV, Business Today, KBC News and TML Voice of India U.P. have submitted their representations to the Ministry for extension of the prescribed time limit which are under examination.

(f) : No definite time frame can be indicated as the process includes inter-Ministerial consultation with other concerned Ministries.